

IEPA Log No.: **C-0555-14**
CoE appl. #: **CEMVR-OD-P-2014-1442**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **March 30, 2015**
Public Notice Ending Date: **April 20, 2015**

Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act
Amendments of 1972

Section 401 Water Quality Certification to Discharge into Waters of the State

Public Notice/Fact Sheet Issued By:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water
Permit Section
1021 North Grand Avenue East
Post Office Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276
217/782-3362

Name and Address of Discharger: Starved Rock Yacht Club – P.O. Box 2346, Ottawa, IL 61350

Discharge Location: Near Ottawa in NW 1/4 Section 19 of Township 33N, Range 3E of the 3rd P.M. in LaSalle County.

Name of Receiving Water: Illinois River

Project Description: Proposed mechanical and hydraulic maintenance dredging of a recreational boat harbor's entrance and interior.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has received an application for a Section 401 water quality certification to discharge into the waters of the state associated with a Section 404 permit application received by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Public Notice period will begin and end on the dates indicated in the heading of this Public Notice. The last day comments will be received will be on the Public Notice period ending date unless a commenter demonstrating the need for additional time requests an extension to this comment period and the request is granted by the IEPA. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the project to the IEPA at the above address. Commenters shall provide their names and addresses along with comments on the certification application. Commenters may include a request for public hearing. The certification and notice number(s) must appear on each comment page.

The attached Fact Sheet provides a description of the project and the antidegradation assessment.

The application, Public Notice/Fact Sheet, comments received, and other documents are available for inspection and may be copied at the IEPA at the address shown above between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday when scheduled by the interested person.

If written comments or requests indicate a significant degree of public interest in the certification application, the IEPA may, at its discretion, hold a public hearing. Public notice will be given 30 days before any public hearing. If a Section 401 water quality certification is issued, response to relevant comments will be provided at the time of the certification. For further information, please call Darren Gove at 217/782-3362.

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The Starved Rock Yacht Club, (“Applicant”) has applied for a 401 Water Quality Certification for impacts associated with the proposed dredging of the Illinois River at river mile (RM) 234.0. The project area is located near 1200 North 27th Road, Ottawa in Township 33 North, Range 2 East, Section 24, LaSalle County. The Applicant is responsible for maintaining a water depth of 4 to 5 feet in the Starved Rock Yacht Club marina. The proposed activity has been authorized under a Department of Army Permit, CEMVR-OD-P-2004-1341 (expires December 31, 2014) and an IEPA permit, 2010-EA-0178 (expires April 30, 2015). Dredging has occurred approximately once every two years with mechanically dredged material being placed in an on-site placement site or on a barge to be off loaded at an alternate upland site. Drainage water was allowed to flow back into the marina harbor through a 10” discharge pipe. Similar procedures would be implemented with the issuance of a new permit with less than 10,000 CY being dredged per event. The mechanically dredge materials, along with any hydraulically dredged material, would be placed in the on-site sediment basin, allowed to settle for 24-72 hours, and discharged in accordance with all applicable regulations. Facility operations include the use of a manually operated discharge valve which enables visual inspection and testing prior to discharge to waters of the U.S. The facility’s operations plan include testing for ammonia prior to discharging to ensure compliance with water quality standards. Effluent from the facility discharges through a 10” discharge pipe back into the Illinois River. The sediment basin has a capacity of greater than 15,000 cubic yards. The purpose of this project is to maintain a water depth of 4’ to 5’ for recreational navigation at the entrance to and within the Starved Rock Yacht Club harbor. The issuance of long-term permits provides the Applicant with the flexibility needed to respond to harbor maintenance needs while complying with the Clean Water Act.

Information used in this review was obtained from the Applicant in a document entitled, Joint Application Form for Illinois dated September, 2014 and revisions to that document dated February 27, 2015.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

The Illinois River (IL_D-20) is a General Use Water with an estimated 7Q10 flow of 3,555 cubic feet per second at this location. According to the draft 2014 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List, the Illinois River has been assessed by Illinois EPA and is listed as not supporting Fish Consumption and Primary Contact Recreation uses. Causes of impairment for Fish Consumption are listed as Mercury and Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and Fecal Coliform is listed as the cause of impairment for Primary Contact Recreation use. The Illinois River, at this location, is listed as fully supporting Aquatic Life use. Secondary Contact and Aesthetic Quality uses have not been assessed. The Illinois River, in the project area, is not listed as a biologically significant stream in the 2008 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Publication *Integrating Multiple Taxa in a Biological Stream Rating System*; nor is it given an

integrity rating in that document. The Illinois River, at this location, is designated as an **enhanced** water pursuant to the dissolved oxygen water quality standard.

Identification of Proposed Pollutant Load Increases or Potential Impacts on Uses.

The pollutant load increases that would occur from this project include some possible increases in total suspended solids (TSS) and ammonia based on dredge samples tested in January 2015. The increase of TSS, a normal and unavoidable result of dredging, may occur in the river at the point of dredge activity. Testing for ammonia will occur prior to discharge from the sediment basin to ensure compliance with water quality standards.

Aquatic life uses in the portion of the river that will be disturbed during dredging may be negatively impacted, but in time, they will recover and support approximately the same community structure as is now found in the existing areas. Due to the size of the river, impacts to aquatic communities should be negligible.

Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.

The increase in suspended solids will be local and temporary. Dredged material will be placed in an on-site sediment basin and drained through a 10" pipe back to the harbor waters. Historically, only mechanical dredging has been utilized, however, the Applicant may use hydraulic dredging in the future. Testing and visual inspection of sediment basin water will be conducted prior to manually allowing water to discharge back to the harbor to ensure that it will comply with water quality standards. Water quality monitoring of the discharged sediment basin effluent will be conducted in accordance with requirements of a state water pollution control operating permit.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

The purpose of this project is to maintain a water depth of 4' to 5' at the entrance to and within the Starved Rock Yacht Club marina. Dredging of the marina will allow for safe recreational navigation within the harbor and out to the Illinois River, maintaining the connection to the river for recreational uses including boating and fishing.

Assessments of Alternatives for Less Increase in Loading or Minimal Environmental Degradation.

The dredging of the Illinois River will follow conditions set forth by the Agency and USACE. The least intrusive alternative would be to not dredge the river. This is not an acceptable alternative given the need to maintain a connection from the marina to the Illinois River. Dredging and the placement site chosen will have the least overall impacts to environment, will not result in significant adverse effects on human health and welfare, and will be operationally and economically feasible for the Applicant.

Summary Comments of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Regional Planning Commissions, Zoning Boards or Other Entities

No comments have been received from IDNR; however, IDNR, Office of Water Resources (OWR), is a participant in the joint application process and IDNR/OWR permits must be obtained for construction within floodways, construction and other activities within public bodies of water, operation and maintenance of dams pursuant to the State of Illinois Rivers, Lakes, and Streams Act (615 ILCS 5).

Agency Conclusion.

This preliminary assessment was conducted pursuant to the Illinois Pollution Control Board regulation for Antidegradation found at 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.105 (antidegradation standard) and was based on the information available to the Agency at the time this assessment was written. We tentatively find that the proposed activity will result in the attainment of water quality standards; that all technically and economically reasonable measures to avoid or minimize the extent of the proposed increase in pollutant loading have been incorporated into the proposed activity; and that this activity will benefit the Starved Rock Yacht Club and its members by allowing for the movement of recreational watercraft from the marina to the Illinois River. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.